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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/826,119	04/16/2004	Toyoko Kusama	NANPI19US	1349

7590 09/27/2006
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EXAMINER

CHUNDURU, SURYAPRABHA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1637

DATE MAILED: 09/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Restriction/Election

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

I. Claims 1-21, 34, 37, drawn to a method for identifying animal species/ animal or plant derived components in a sample, requiring SEQ ID 1-43, classified in class 435, subclass 91.2.

II. Claims 22-33, 35-36, drawn to a primer pair and a kit, requiring SEQ ID Nos. 1-43, classified in class 536, subclass 24.33.

2. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions II and I are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the primers of Group II can be used in materially different processes such as nucleic acid purification or gene therapy assays as opposed to its use in amplification of a nucleic acid molecule. Searching the inventions of Groups I and II together would impose serious search burden. The inventions of Groups I and II have a separate status in the art as shown by their different classifications. Moreover, in the instant case, the search for the method for detecting animal species/ animal or plant derived components and the primers are not coextensive. Group I encompasses method steps for detecting animal species/ animal or plant derived components, which are not required for the search of Group II. In contrast, the search for Group II would require a text search for the use of the product (primers), in addition to a search for the product (primer sequences) itself. Prior art, which teaches the product, would not

necessarily be applicable to the method for detecting animal species/ animal or plant derived components. Moreover, even if the product were known, the method for detecting animal species/ animal or plant derived components, may be novel and unobvious in view of the preamble or active steps.

3. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above, have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, and the search required for each group is not required for the other groups because each group requires a different non-patent literature search due to each group comprising different products and/or method steps, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

4. Additionally, the inventions above are subjected to further restriction. Applicants are required to elect one specific primer pair SEQ ID No. for examination. This requirement is made under 1192 O.G. 68 Notice (November 19, 1996 and revised M.P.E.P.), as the examination of more than one sequence in the application would result in an undue search burden on the PTO. Further, this is NOT an election of species. The oligonucleotide primers are directed to different, patentably distinct polymorphisms ATP synthase subunit 8 gene. These polymorphisms result in patentably distinct sequences with different structures. Thus each primer sequence is structurally different from one another and result in patentably distinct sequences with different structures and each specific primer pair would amplify a distinct species with different product sequence. These sequences are thus deemed to normally constitute independent and distinct inventions within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 121. Absent evidence to the contrary, each such nucleotide sequences are presumed to represent an independent and distinct invention, subject to restriction requirement pursuant to 35 USC 121 and 37 CFR 1.141. By statute, “[i]f two or more

independent and distinct inventions are claimed in one application, the Commissioner may require the application to be restricted to one of the inventions.” 35 U.S.C. 121. Pursuant to this statute, the rules provide that “[i]f two or more independent and distinct inventions are claimed in a single application, the examiner in his action shall require the applicant... to elect that invention to which his claim shall be restricted.” 37 CFR 1.142 (a). See also 37 CFR 1.141(a).

5. The application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

(a) cattle; (b) sheep; (c) goat; (d) deer; (f) pig; (g) horse; (h) rabbit; (i) whale; (j) chicken; (k) fish; (l) mammal-specific; and (m) plant-specific.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits. Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

6. The examiner has required restriction between product and process claims. Where applicant elects claims directed to the product, and a product claim is subsequently

found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined in accordance with the provisions of MPEP § 821.04. **Process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the patentable product** will be entered as a matter of right if the amendment is presented prior to final rejection or allowance, whichever is earlier. Amendments submitted after final rejection are governed by 37 CFR 1.116; amendments submitted after allowance are governed by 37 CFR 1.312. In the event of rejoinder, the requirement for restriction between the product claims and the rejoined process claims will be withdrawn, and the rejoined process claims will be fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. Thus, to be allowable, the rejoined claims must meet all criteria for patentability including the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103, and 112. Until an elected product claim is found allowable, an otherwise proper restriction requirement between product claims and process claims may be maintained. Withdrawn process claims that are not commensurate in scope with an allowed product claim will not be rejoined. See "Guidance on Treatment of Product and Process Claims in light of In re Ochiai, In re Brouwer and 35 U.S.C. § 103(b)," 1184 O.G. 86 (March 26, 1996). Additionally, in order to retain the right to rejoinder in accordance with the above policy, Applicant is advised that the process claims should be amended during prosecution either to maintain dependency on the product claims or to otherwise include the limitations of the product claims. **Failure to do so may result in a loss of the right to rejoinder.** Further, note that the prohibition against double patenting rejections of 35 U.S.C. 121 does not apply where the restriction requirement is withdrawn by the examiner before the patent issues. See MPEP § 804.01.

7. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

8. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Suryaprabha Chunduru whose telephone number is 571-272-0783. The examiner can normally be reached on 8.30A.M. - 4.30P.M , Mon - Friday,.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Benzion can be reached on 571-272-0782. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Suryaprabha Chunduru
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1637

Prabha Chunduru
SURYAPRABHA CHUNDURU
PATENT EXAMINER 9/21/06